A unique Alliance for Future Earth

Future Earth is being established by a partnership for global sustainability including researchers, funders and users of knowledge. The Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability currently comprises:

- International Council for Science (ICSU)
- International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- Belmont Forum (a high level group of major research funders)
- UN Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UN University (UNU)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as an observer

Future Earth is being designed on behalf of the Alliance by a multi-stakeholder committee (Transition Team) and will be operational in 2013.

Transition Team members:

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www.icsu.org/future-earth

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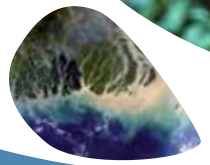
Future Earth

research for global sustainability



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A new 10-year international research initiative

Future Earth will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformation towards global sustainability. Future Earth will mobilize thousands of scientists while strengthening partnerships with policy-makers and other stakeholders to provide sustainability options and solutions in the wake of Rio+20.

Future Earth will be a global platform to deliver:

- **Solution-orientated** research for sustainability, linking environmental change and development challenges to satisfy human needs for food, water, energy, health;
- **Effective interdisciplinary collaboration** across natural and social sciences, humanities, economics, and technology development, to find the best scientific solutions to multi-faceted problems;
- **Timely information for policy-makers** by generating the knowledge that will support existing and new global and regional integrated assessments;
- **Participation** of policy-makers, funders, academics, business and industry, and other sectors of civil society in co-designing and co-producing research agendas and knowledge;
- **Increased capacity building** in science, technology and innovation, especially in developing countries, and engagement of a new generation of scientists.

Three main themes to develop integrated research for global sustainability:

- **Dynamic Planet**
  Observing, understanding, projecting Earth and societal system trends, drivers and processes, and their interactions; anticipating global thresholds.
- **Global Development**
  Providing the knowledge for sustainable, secure and fair stewardship of food, water, health, energy, materials and other ecosystem services.
- **Transforming towards Sustainability**
  Understanding and evaluating strategies for governing and managing the global environment across scales and sectors, and transformations needed to move towards a sustainable Future Earth.

Integrating existing endeavours

Future Earth will build on the success of existing global environmental change programmes and projects to develop a stronger and broader community. During 2012, both the Planet Under Pressure conference in London and the Rio+20 Earth Summit were important steps along the road to building this new community for Future Earth.